

# REMINISCENCES

1956

Thursday, February 9, 1956 DUXBURY CLIPPER

## Notes From A Diary of 1840s

(Here are excerpts from a diary kept by Mrs. Horace Soule's father in the 1840s. The parenthetical notes are by Miss Mary Gifford.—Ed.)

Jan. 1846: Old Colony Railroad open to public first time. Jan. 15: Went to Duxbury for the first time on the Railroad.

July 4, 1846: Sprague Family Reunion. (Seth Sprague, great-great grandfather of Miss Gifford, whose farm is now the golf links, had 15 children, and they and their children all attended this reunion). There was also a picnic that day in Deacon Loring's barn (now the Ralph Lawson's). Fireworks in the evening, the first time in Duxbury.

Jan. 18, 1847: Went to Nathaniel Winsor's to a party given for Henry Winsor on account of his engagement to Elizabeth Sampson (Mrs. Paul Peterson's aunt).

Jan. 18, 1849: 36 vessels have left U. S. for California since Dec. passengers.

July 2, 1849: Henry Winsor and Otis Soule sailed as passengers in Ship Constantine (Capt. C. F. Winsor, Henry's brother) for San Francisco, 138 days passage. Arrived Nov. 17th. (After Henry Winsor had made his pile, he sailed for home, went ashore at St. Thomas and was never heard of again.)

May 30, 180: G. B. Weston's house totally destroyed by fire. Loss \$50,000. (This is now known as the Wright house.)

(Mr. Horace H. Soule, from whose diary these items are taken, lived in Boston and often came to

Duxbury to visit his many relatives and friends. Mrs. Horace Soule of Brookline is a summer resident of Duxbury.—Ed.)